

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 4 as presented in the underlying International Application No. PCT/EP2004/052324 without prejudice. Please add new claims as indicated in the claim listing below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (new): An electrical switching device comprising:
 a housing having interrupting chambers;
 a cover capable of closing the housing; and
 externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing;
 each interrupting chamber having disposed therein at least one arc quenching device and
 a stationary switching contact for a cooperating movable switching contact,
 the housing and the cover having formed therein guide and retaining elements for both
 insertable cooling plates and arc splitter plate stacks defining the arc quenching devices, the arc
 splitter stacks being interchangeable with the cooling plates.

Claim 6 (new): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and
 retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting
 chambers and first retaining elements of the cover, the cooling plates being U-shaped and having
 outer legs and being supported with the outer legs on the inner walls of the housing, the cooling
 plates having end faces facing away from the cover in pocket-like formations of the housing, the
 U-shaped cooling plates further being held down by the first retaining elements.

Claim 7 (new): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements include inner walls of the housing laterally bounding the interrupting chambers and pocket-like second retaining elements of the cover, the arc splitter plate stacks being secured with one side in the pocket-like second retaining elements via a frictional and/or form-locking connection, and, when the cover is mounted, the arc splitter plate stacks being supported between the inner walls of the housing.

Claim 8 (new): The electrical switching device as recited in claim 5 wherein the guide and retaining elements includes arc splitter guide and retaining elements and cooling plate guide and retaining elements, the arc splitter guide and retaining elements being adjacent to the guide and cooling plate retaining elements in a direction of the terminal contacts.

Claim 9 (new): An electrical switching device comprising:
a housing having interrupting chambers and housing guide and retaining elements;
a cover capable of closing the housing and having cover guide and retaining elements;
and
externally accessible terminal contacts being secured in position in the housing;
a stationary switching contact located in each interrupting chamber, the stationary switching contact cooperating with a movable switching contact; and
an arc quenching device located in each interrupting chamber, the arc quenching device being either an insertable cooling plate or an arc splitter stack, the housing guide and retaining elements and the cover guide and retaining elements including both cooling plate guide and retaining elements and arc splitter stack retaining elements.